

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06514 221446Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 USIA-15 /045 W

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R 221235Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7118

UNCLAS ROME 6514

FOR: STATE CU/WE, CU/ARTS, IO/UNESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, IT

SUBJECT: VISIT TO U.S. OF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION EXPERT

1. FOR MANY YEARS, WE HAVE DISCUSSED SENDING TO THE US DR. GIOVANNI URBANI, DIRECTOR OF THE ROME INSTITUTE OF RESTORATION, PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTER IN THE WORD FOR THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF ART OBJECTS AND MONUMENTS. THUS WE PLEASED THAT DR. URBANI HAS APPROACHED US WITH REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING US VISIT, FOR CONTACT WITH THE VARIETY OF PEOPLE FROM MAJOR MUSEUMS, FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT, AND FROM VARIOUS RESTORATION CENTERS, ALL OF WHOM WILL BE EAGER TO SEE THIS KEY WORLD FIGURE.

2. SINCE IV PROGRAM PRIORITIES FOCUSED ELSEWHERE, CANNOT JUSTIFY GRANT FOR URBANI. FULBRIGHT COMMISSION, WHICH HAS PROJECT IN CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION, CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF TRAVEL GRANT, BUT BUDGETARY PROBLEMS SEVERE.

3. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT URBANI SO IMPORTANT A FIGURE THAT MANY INSTITUTIONS WILL BE EAGER TO HAVE HIM LECTURE. HE DELIGHTED TO DO SO AND, ON THIS BASIS, BELIEVE A TOUR COULD BE SELF-FINANCED. THEREFORE REQUESTED CONSULT WITH EITHER/BOTH JOHN SPENCER, DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM PROGRAMS, NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE FINE ARTS, OR/AND PAUL PERROT, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION (AND CHAIRMAN OF BOARD FOR UNESCO-LINKED ROME CENTER) TO SEE IF HE/THEY WILLING UNDERTAKE TO ARRANGE LECTURE TOUR BRINGING IN TOTAL OF ABOUT \$2000. NOTE ALSO THAT, DURING RECENT VISIT ROME, UNCLASSIFIED

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THOMAS HOVING OF METROPOLITAN MUSEUM NY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN

DISCUSSING JOINT PROGRAM WITH ROME INSTITUTE.VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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